

NEWS

THE INTERNATIONAL FAIR

by Shaunda Brooks, Editor-in-Chief

The Brown Ballroom was taken over by many of the international RSOs on campus as well as local cultural organizations at this year's International Fair, which was held in March.

Bloomington-Normal residents, students and faculty got a chance to experience different food, clothing, and music displayed by the organizations. Plenty of information was also available for everyone to learn more about each RSO that was involved. Some of the RSOs that participated were the



Muslim Student Association, the Japanese Student Association, and the Spanish Club, just to name a few. Senior Spanish major Ashley Mahone is a member of the Spanish Club and shared her personal experience as a participant of the event.



"I have attended the fair for three years," said Ashley. "This year I helped cook the food with other Spanish Club members, and also Marinelly Castillo, the club's advisor. Being able to be backstage in the Bone and cooking food with other students of the international organizations was a wonderful experience. Every organization works very hard and it was not an easy task to make sure everything came together."

Ashley also highlighted the benefits of students attending the fair.

"I-Fair is a great way for students of different cultures to share their traditions with the students of ISU as well as the Bloomington-Normal community," said Ashley. "Once you stepped into the Brown Ballroom, there are so many different types artwork, entertainment, clothing and food. It helps people take a step out of their comfort zone and to be more informed and open to other cultures."

Activities at the fair included having your name written in Chinese, learning how to salsa dance and even trying on a



hijab (a veil or head scarf that is worn by Muslim women). Senior Psychology major and President of the Muslim Student Association, Binta Diallo, gave her input on the event.

"The International Fair was a wonderful event and I am appreciative to be apart," said Binta.

Ashley forwards the invitation for those who did not get a chance to attend the event this year.

"It is held once a year and if anyone has a chance

to go next year, I highly recommend it," said Ashley. "You will never forget it."

